

**EXERCISE---EXERCISE--- EXERCISE (NLE11)**  
**State of Indiana Response to Catastrophic Earthquake**  
**1900 EDT, May 17, 2011**

*New information in Bold Italics*

**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

Indiana has received a Presidential Emergency Declaration opening the door for federal financial assistance. At this time, federal assistance is focused on immediate and short-term essential activities, such as search and rescue, medical needs and evacuations.

***County emergency declarations have been announced for eight counties – Crawford, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Knox, Pike, Dubois, Vermillion, and Parke.***

At approximately 10:00 a.m. on May 16, 2011, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake occurred 40 miles northwest of Memphis, Tenn., near Marked Tree, Arkansas. The shaking from the earthquake was felt throughout Indiana. The earthquake registered as a 6.2 magnitude along the Wabash Valley. (A map of the earthquake epicenter is attached.) A second earthquake occurred at 10:02 a.m. in Mt. Carmel, IL with an initial magnitude of 6.0.

As of May 17, 2011, 27 counties have reported being affected by the earthquake: Putnam, Vermillion, Parke, Vigo, Clay, Owen, Greene, Sullivan, Monroe, Brown, Lawrence, Jackson, Orange, Washington, Bartholomew, Knox, Gibson, Posey, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Dubois, Crawford, Daviess, Martin, Pike and Vanderburgh Counties.

The worst damage is believed to be in IDHS District 10, where 75 percent of the structures are observed to be damaged and at least 50 percent of those were severely damaged. (See attached map.)

***The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility is transporting all inmates to three other facilities in Indiana. The move was prompted by the damages the facility suffered. Inmates will be transported by busses from local schools. Also, the Indiana National Guard and the Indiana State Police will be assisting with security.***

All rail traffic in Indiana has been stopped pending inspection of bridges.

**Communications:** Widespread outages of cable, landline, cellular, and internet services are reported across southwestern Indiana. 911 centers are not operational in some areas. Cell towers are being evaluated and repaired, but transportation issues are hampering repairs. Communications have been restored to all counties in IDHS District 5. Electrical power has been restored to five counties in IDHS District 6.

**Power Outages:** The state has received reports of significant power outages for Southwestern Indiana. ***An estimated 844,974 households are without power.***

**Water/Sewer disruptions:** *It is believed that water supply and sewer disruptions are widespread throughout southwestern Indiana. Six Indiana counties are reporting outages. Those counties include Crawford, Greene, Spencer, Warrick, Perry, and Pike.*

**Shelters:** To find a shelter near you, text NLESHELTER followed by your Zip Code to 738674. For example, if your zip code was 72756, you would text NLESHELTER 72756 to 738674.

**Casualties:** *The current total number of confirmed fatalities is 99, and the number of others injured is currently estimated at 8,978.*

*A HAZMAT fire at the Mt. Vernon oil refinery resulted in one fatality and 49 injuries.*

Vanderburgh County hospitals report they are completely full and unable to accept additional patients at this time. *Individuals in this area who need hospital and/or emergency treatment should seek treatment at St. Mary Warrick Hospital (30 min from Evansville) Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes (1 hour from Evansville), and (Memorial Jasper Hospital).*

*Individuals are advised to seek medical attention at a hospital ONLY in cases of a medical emergency. Citizens are asked to please care for minor injuries and illness at home.*

**Airports:** *The Evansville and Terre Haute airport control towers are still closed. At this time, the Indianapolis International, Vigo County, Columbus, Bloomington, and Sullivan airports in Indiana are open.*

**Road Closures:** Many major highways across southwestern Indiana have been closed due to earthquake-related bridge damage, but some INDOT inspectors will post “road closed” or “bridge closed” signs when possible. Travelers should not assume that a road or bridge is safe to travel if there is no sign posted.

**Major road closures reported include (with mile marker designated):**

- *US Highway 50 in Jackson and Jennings counties at mile markers: 107, 106 and 111 is now open.*
- *US Highway 150/National Road eastbound traffic is down, westbound is functioning*
- *State Road 50 at Versailles (129) is open.*
- *I-65 at Scottsburg and Rushville need to be inspected. At Brownstown (45) and Jeffersonville (21) the interstate is closed.*
- *State Road 421 around Versailles is still closed and waiting to be inspected.*

- *I-465 eastbound at Indianapolis at exit 44 needs to be inspected.*
- *I-69 at Muncie (41) and Noblesville (17) need to be inspected.*
- *I-70 at New Castle (126) and mile marker 111 is now open.*

Bridges: All lanes on I-70 are open.

Speed is being restricted to 50mph for all interstate traffic on any open highways.

## **RESPONSE EFFORTS**

**State Emergency Operations Center:** Under the leadership of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), the Indiana Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated at the highest level and will remain activated 24 hours a day to monitor conditions and provide resource support to local county emergency agencies. The state is working with local emergency management officials that can be contacted to assess the damages throughout the state. State officials have also been in contact with FEMA officials.

### **State Agencies supporting activities in the State EOC include:**

Indiana Board of Animal Health  
 Indiana Department of Administration  
 Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
 Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
 Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
 Indiana Department of Transportation  
 Indiana Family and Social Services Administration  
 Indiana National Guard  
 Indiana State Department of Health  
 Indiana State Police  
 Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
 Integrated Public Safety Commission

### **Other organizations supporting activities in the State EOC include:**

American Red Cross  
 US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

**County Emergency Operations Center Activations:** 11 counties have activated their emergency operation centers (EOC).

Task Force 1 arrived in Mount Vernon, Indiana last night at 5:30 p.m. to assist local emergency management with ongoing response efforts. Indiana Task Force 1 is a federally organized emergency response team comprised of emergency responders from fire departments in and around Marion County/Indianapolis, and civilians from various professional backgrounds across

the state. Several specialized disciplines comprise the team, including: Technical Rescue, Search, Hazardous Materials, Medical and Logistics. IN Task Force 1 and OH Task Force 1 are working in Mount Vernon.

**IDHS:** The state also has deployed District Response Task Force 2 and the fire component of District 4 and EMS component of District 6 to Posey County. Those task forces include fire, EMS, law enforcement, all hazards support and support staffs. ***District Response Task Force 2 has arrived to relieve District Task Force 1, but District Task Force 2 will not assume command until tomorrow. [Reference attached IDHS district map]***

In Indiana the district concept divides the state into 10 geographic segments or districts. Within each district, IDHS has guided the development of an emergency response task force, each with varying capabilities, to support local emergency management agencies and streamline the mutual aid process.

These district response task forces are staffed with local volunteers including firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, emergency managers, law enforcement personnel and other local emergency response professionals.

**INDOT:** Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) highway and bridge inspectors are assessing the structures throughout the state as quickly as they can, but the extensive area of damage created by the earthquakes has complicated their efforts.

**INNG:** *The Indiana National Guard has deployed more than 5,000 troops. Currently those troops are conducting search and rescue/recovery, air surveillance, medical triage/treatment, haz mat and reconnaissance activities. Indiana National Guard troops have also conducted patient evacuations from four Evansville area facilities (Deaconess Hospital, Columbia Health Care, Pine Haven Nursing Home and St. Mary's Medical Center).*

**Bulk Distribution sites:** The American Red Cross is working with local EMAs to determine bulk distribution sites in the affected counties.

**ISP:** In addition to regularly assigned staff, Indiana State Police has 17 units dispatched to the affected area to assist with search and rescue operations, provide traffic assistance and security, and assist local emergency management officials with response efforts.

**Ohio:** Five Ambulance Strike Teams (each consisting of five ambulances with 2 EMS personnel per ambulance) from Ohio will be staging in Columbus, Indiana Wednesday morning to support EMS efforts in the affected area.

For more information about staying safe during an earthquake, visit [www.GetPrepared.in.gov](http://www.GetPrepared.in.gov).

Follow Indiana on “my social media” at [www.MySocialMedia.com/Indiana](http://www.MySocialMedia.com/Indiana) to stay informed about this developing situation.

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Media Contact: THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION IS NOT FOR DISCLOSURE  
TO THE PUBLIC: Joint Information Center (JIC) 317.238.1784, JIC@JIC.in.gov.